

Important International Organizations

The South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

- Headquarters: Kathmandu, Nepal (The Secretariat of the Association was set up in Kathmandu on 17 January 1987)
- Secretary General: Esala Ruwan Weerakoon (Sri Lanka)
- Established in: 8 December, 1985 (in Dhaka)
- Members: 8 countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
- Role: To promote the welfare of people of South Asia, strengthen collective self-reliance, promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in various fields, and cooperate with international and regional organizations.



Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

- Headquarters : Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Secretary-General : Tenzin Lekphell (Bhutan)
- Established in : 6 June, 1997, through the Bangkok declaration.
- Members : 7 countries - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- Role : Technological and economical cooperation among south Asian and South East Asian countries along the coast of the Bay of Bengal.



ABOUT BIMSTEC

BIMSTEC initially had four-members :

1. Bangladesh
2. India
3. Sri-Lanka and
4. Thailand

Myanmar joined BIMSTEC in 1997.

Nepal and Bhutan joined BIMSTEC in 2004.



Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- Headquarters: Jakarta, Indonesia
- Secretary-General: Lim Jock Hoi (Brunei)
- Established in: 8 August, 1967 (in Bangkok, Thailand)
- Members: 10 countries - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- Role: An economic union, promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and sociocultural integration among its members and other countries in Asia.



ASEAN initially had 5 members :

- Indonesia,
- Malaysia,
- Philippines,
- Singapore and
- Thailand

• Brunei joined ASEAN on 7 January 1984

• Viet Nam on 28 July 1995,



- Laos and Myanmar on 23 July 1997 and
- Cambodia on 30 April 1999 - making up what is today the ten Member States of ASEAN.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- Headquarters : Beijing, China
- Secretary General : Mr. Zhang Ming
- Established in : 2001
- Members: 8



(China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan) ; India and Pakistan joined SCO as full members in 2017

- Official languages : Russian and Chinese.
- Role : Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance.

Largest regional organisation in the world in terms of geographical coverage and population

BRICS

Established in : 2006

Members : Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa

Initially 4 members - Brazil, Russia, India, and China (BRIC)

South Africa was invited to join BRIC in December 2010. After that the group adopted the acronym BRICS.

1st BRIC summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia on 16 June 2009.

13th BRICS summit was held in New Delhi, India on September 9, 2021.

The theme for India's Chairship was 'BRICS @ 15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus'.

14th BRICS summit will be held in China in June, 2022.



New Development Bank (NDB)

- Headquarters : Shanghai, China
- President : Marcos Troyjo
- Established in : 2015 (by BRICS countries)
- Formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank.
- Role : It is an International organization jointly founded by the BRICS Countries.

- Members : Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Bangladesh and United Arab Emirates
- Bangladesh - Membership date : September 16, 2021
- United Arab Emirates - Membership date : October 4, 2021
- Egypt and Uruguay are prospective members.
- [Prospective members have been admitted by NDB's Board of Governors and will officially become a member country once they deposit their instrument of accession.]



Group of Seven (G-7)

- Established in : 1975
- Members : Canada, USA, UK, France, Germany, Japan and Italy.
- G8 :- Canada, USA, UK, France, Germany, Japan, Italy and Russia.
- Role : The heads of government of the member states meet at the annual G7 Summit. The major purpose of the G-7 is to discuss and deliberate on international economic issues. It sometimes acts in concert to help resolve other global problems, with a special focus on economic issues.



How did G7 become G8 and G8 become G7?

- The G-7 was known as the 'G-8' for several years after the original seven were joined by Russia in 1997.
- The other nations of the group decided to suspend Russia from the G8 and the group became G7 again in 2014.



G-20

- Established in : 1999
- Members : The G20 (Group of 20) is an international forum which includes 19 of the world's largest economies and the European Union.
- Role : The Group of Twenty, or G20, is the premier forum for international cooperation on the most important aspects of the international economic and financial agenda.



Parcham Classes

European Union (EU)

- Members : 27
- The EU has 24 official languages.
- Role : The European Union plays important roles in diplomacy, the promotion of human rights, trade, development and humanitarian aid and working with multilateral organisations.
- European Union – Brexit : On January 31, 2020, the United Kingdom (U.K) formally left the European Union. U.K is the first country to leave the E.U.



Commonwealth of Nations

- Headquarters : London, United Kingdom
- Head : Queen Elizabeth II
- Secretary-General : Patricia Scotland
- Members : 54 (including India)
- Role : The main goal of the Commonwealth organisation is to improve the well-being of all Commonwealth citizens and to advance their shared interests globally.



Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- Headquarters : Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa
- Vice President : Ashok Lavasa
- Established in : 19 December, 1966
- Members : 68 countries (including India)
- Role : To provide prosperity, inclusivity, resilience, and sustainability to Asia and Pacific along with eradication of poverty.



Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

- Headquarters : Beijing, China
- President : Jin Liqun
- Vice-president : Urjit Patel
- Established in : 2016
- Members : 105
- Role : An international development bank with the stated goal of improving social and economic conditions throughout Asia.



World Economic Forum (WEF)

- Headquarters : Cologny, Switzerland
- Executive Chairman : Klaus Martin Schwab
- Established in : 1971
- Role : it is an international NGO of public-private partnership. The Forum engages the foremost political, business, cultural and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.



International Cricket Council (ICC)

- Headquarters : Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Chairman : Greg Barclay
- Established in : Founded as the Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909,

Renamed as International Cricket Conference in 1965

Renamed as International Cricket Council in 1989.

- Members : 106 member nations
- Role : The International Cricket Council (ICC) is the international governing body of cricket.



International Cricket Council

Interpol - International Criminal Police Organization

- Headquarters : Lyon, France
- Secretary General : Jürgen Stock
- Established in : 1923
- Members : 195 member countries (including India).
- Role : It is an international organization that facilitates worldwide police cooperation and crime control.
- It is world's largest police organization.



INTERPOL

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

- Headquarters : Gland, Switzerland
- President : Razan Al Mubarak
- Director General : Dr Bruno Oberle
- Established in : 1948
- Role : The IUCN is a global union composed of both government as well as civil society organisations. Its aim is to encourage international cooperation and provide scientific knowledge and tools to guide conservation action.



Amnesty International (AI)

- Headquarters : London, United Kingdom
- Established in : 1961
- Role : Amnesty draws attention to human rights abuses and it campaigns for compliance with international laws and standards. It works to mobilize public opinion to generate pressure on governments where abuse takes place.



Parcham Classes

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

- Headquarters : Paris, France
- Secretary-General : Mathias Cormann
- Established in : 1961
- Members : 38
- On 25/05/2021 Costa Rica became 38th member of OECD.
- Role : The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives.



Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

- Headquarters : Vienna, Austria
- Established in : 1960
- OPEC had its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, in the first five years of its existence. This was moved to Vienna, Austria, on September 1, 1965.
- Secretary General : Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo
- Members : 13
- Role : To coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its Member Countries and ensure the stabilization of oil markets in order to secure an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consumers



Mr Haitham Al-Ghais of Kuwait will be appointed as Secretary General of OPEC, with effect from 1 August 2022, for a period of three years.

UN & INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

UNDP
UNEP
UNFPA
UN - Habitat
UNICEF
WFP

FAO, ICAO, IFAD, ILO, IMF, IMO, ITU, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNWTO, UPU, WIPO, WMO, WHO, World Bank

- CTBTO
- IAEA
- IOM
- OPCW
- UNFCCC
- UNAIDS
- UNCTAD
- UNHCR
- UNOPS
- UNRWA
- UN-WOMEN
- UNIDIR
- UNITAR
- UNSSC
- UNU